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## Musicians chip in with a festival of jazzamatazz



THE sound of jazz flowed through the streets of Chipping Norton during the town's 16th annual music festival. Free gigs were held in different venues as part of Chippyjazz on Sunday, organised by the Chipping Norton Rotary Club.

Musician Cameron Taylor, pictured, who played his saxophone outside Jaffe and Neale bookshop and café in Middle Row, said: "Everyone was packed in to the café to listen to some good music." Money was raised for the Lawrence

Home Nursing Team, which provides supported for terminally-ill patients living in Chipping Norton, Charlbury-based charity SpecialEffect, which gives access to computer games for disabled people, and international charity End Polio Now.

## MP heads a bid to forge trade and cultural links for district

# CHINESE TWIN TOWN HOPES

CHERWELL is believed to be one of the first districts in the country to forge a twinning link with a city in China. Banbury MP Tony Baldry is leading moves to link Cherwell District Council with Xishuangbanna. The agreement could see the Chinese government funding Mandarin lessons in Banbury and Bicester. And youngsters from Xishuangbanna are likely to attend colleges in North Oxfordshire to learn English and take vocational qualifications. Council leaders hope it could also kick-

By Samantha McGregor

start trade and promote tourism between the two areas. Xishuangbanna has links with Austin, Texas, while Banbury is twinned with Ermont, in France, and Hennef, in Germany. Sir Tony signed a 'letter of intent' between the council and Xishuangbanna Dai Nationality Autonomous Prefecture to establish "sister city" status.

■ Continued on page 2



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# China is major growth area, says MP Pupils asked to learn Mandarin

■ continued from page 1

Sir Tony said: "I think the whole of the UK, and the world, needs to take on board the size of China and its importance in the world.

"From our perspective it gives us the opportunity of establishing business links with China.

"As with any twinning agreement it's going to take time to build up relations – it's what both sides make of it.

"But the Chinese have been here, have been to Bicester. They like North Oxfordshire, and are very keen to take the twinning arrangement forward.

"Apart from cities like Bristol, I suspect we are one of the first district areas to be linked to an area of China."

He said: "I think it's a reflection of the fact that Cherwell District Council is forward looking and one of the areas definitely going to grow in the 21st century is China. Deepening the links can only be good."

Delegations from Xishuangbanna and the district will visit their respective twin-

● Xishuangbanna is in the Yunnan Province in the South-West of China near the border with Thailand, Laos and Burma.

● It has a population of about 994,000.

● In order to create the link with Cherwell, it had to get permission from China's government.

● It is one of the few tropical areas in China, and its main economic activities are rubber and tea.



● Xishuangbanna wants to promote itself as a tourism destination. It also has links with other Asian countries and Austin, Texas, in the US.

ning partners, he said.

Rose Turner, principal of Banbury and Bicester College, said: "Education is a particular area of interest for the partnership and the agreement signed with Jinghong College will provide fantastic opportunities for staff and students."

Richard Hunter, chairman of Banbury Chamber of Commerce, said: "Potentially it's a good idea and seems to have educational benefits.

"Learning Mandarin is an absolutely brilliant idea for kids, especially with youth unemployment, as it could give young people more opportunity to expand their horizons and do business abroad.

"How it will directly effect businesses in Cherwell I don't know at this stage."

■ Cherwell's executive will be asked on Monday to look at setting up a committee to develop the link.

## Banbury Cake

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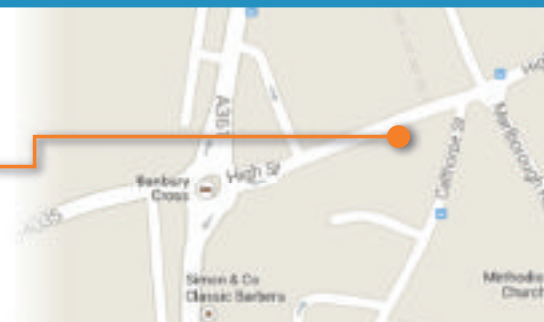
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# Primary pupils dress up as Victorians during day out at museum



Youngsters Issy Coventry, left, and Bethany Atherton with adults Sally Gray, left, and Rachel Blake ahead of the visit to St John's Museum, Warwick, where pupils lined up ready for inspection, above, before starting their day in a Victorian classroom



PUPILS from a North Oxfordshire school found out what it was like to live in the Victorian era

Students from Sibford Gower Primary School, near Banbury, went for the day to St John's Museum, Warwick.

Youngsters donned traditional uniform for the period – sailor collars for the boys and pinafores for the girls, and started their day in a Victorian schoolroom.

Teacher Sally Gray said: "It was active and experimental while creating a feeling of authenticity with expert knowledge in beautiful surroundings. The children really enjoyed it."

## InBRIEF

### 10-year-old is bitten by dog

■ **BODICOTE:** A boy of 10 was treated in hospital after he was bitten in East Street by a dog at 4.30pm on Thursday. He was bitten on the thigh by the young brown dog on a lead. The dog owner, a woman in her 60s, left the scene after asking the boy if he was OK. Witnesses are asked to call police on 101.

# Legal fight looms over new housing

**COUNCIL chiefs are seeking legal advice after four major planning applications were given the green light by the government on appeal.**

Cherwell District Council has hit out at the decisions to approve almost 400 homes that it had thrown out.

Developers have won appeals over 145 homes east of Bloxham Road near Salt Way, Banbury and 70 off Bourne Lane, Hook Norton.

Two further applications for 75 homes off Barford Road, Bloxham and 85 near Milton Road, Bloxham, were also approved.

Eric Pickles, Secretary of State for the Department for Communities and Local Government, last week ruled the homes could be built.

By Sam McGregor

The council is not getting enough homes built to meet demand for the next five years, he said.

None of the sites are included in the council's local plan of where major estates will go.

Lead member for planning Michael Gibbard: "This flies completely in the face of both localism and the plan making process."

"Cherwell District Council is now taking expert legal advice and if appropriate will take action to counter these appalling decisions."

He said: "We are confident that we now have the necessary five-year land supply fol-

lowing approval of other major planning applications. However, some of these developments have yet to be completed and this is what developers are challenging.

"As a council, we have considered the views of local people, and we have done what is asked of us by approving development in areas we believe are sustainable.

"After that our hands are tied as it is up to the developers to decide when they are built within the designated timescale."

Councillors threw out the plans as they said they were in the wrong place and contrary to the local plan.

Last week Banbury MP Sir Tony Baldry said the decisions were the "most disappointing" affecting the constituency in his 30 years as an MP.

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## InBRIEF

Hearing held  
in scrap trial

■ **N OXON:** A pre-trial hearing has been held in a second case where Thames Valley Police sent undercover officers into a scrapyard.

Police raided Smiths of Bloxham, in Milton, near Banbury, in May last year and charged five men as part of Operation Symphony.

Peter Smith, 68, of Bloxham Road, Bloxham; Tommy Smith, 36, of Bloxham Road, Bloxham; Joey Smith, 23, of Milton Road, Adderbury; Henry Penfold, 21, of Tadmerton Road, Bloxham; and Matthew Miles, 25, of Main Street, Great Bourton, all deny charges of attempting to acquire and convert criminal property.

The men are bailed until their trial, which is due to start on November 4 this year.

Boat rides set  
for canal day

■ **BANBURY:** A day of dance, folk music and boat rides will take place at the 10th Banbury Canal Day.

The canal day, organised by Banbury Town Council, will be held on Sunday along the canalside from Spiceball Park to The Mill Arts Centre and from Banbury bus station to Sovereign Wharf.

It starts at 10.30am and finishes at 5pm.

# Tenants downsizing due to bedroom tax



Tamsyn Moth and her daughters Madison and Harper Fuller

**RESIDENTS** took to the streets, MPs protested, but nothing could stop the welfare reform labelled the bedroom tax.

In April, the Government cut the benefit people could get if they were deemed to have a spare bedroom in their council or housing association home.

The policy meant council tenants lost between 14 and 25 per cent of housing benefit if they had "spare rooms".

Now Oxford City Council is expected to ratify plans to bring its housing policy into line with the Government's size criteria.

It means children of different sexes could have to share a room until they are 10, and children of the same sex could have to share up to age 16.

The Government says the policy makes better use of unused space in homes, but opponents argue that it hits large families.

As a result some tenants, such as Banbury single mum Tamsyn Moth, have moved to a smaller home.

Miss Moth said she and her children Madison, six and Harper, three, moved in April just before the changes began.

The 40-year-old downsized from her three-bedroom home in Bretch Hill to a two-bedroom home in Thornbury Place.

She said: "We took part in an exchange but were forced to move. You feel up in the air."

"Labour have said if they are the new Government they will scrap it. Does that mean we all get to move back?

As Labour leader Ed Miliband pledges to scrap the 'bedroom tax' we take a look at how people in Oxfordshire have been affected. **MARK TAYLOR** and **FREDDIE WHITTAKER** report

"That is why I won't vote. They are full of hot air making promises they won't keep."

Miss Moth said the demands of childcare prevented her working full-time, but by working part-time she would suffer, and applied for housing benefit to cover her £105-a-week rent.

For Darren Belcher the tax meant his benefits were cut.

He lives in Blackbird Leys with wife Rachael and children Kaya, 12, Charlotte, 11, Misty-Lee, nine and Darren, seven.

Under the bedroom tax rules, Kaya and Charlotte should be sharing a room, as should Misty-Lee and Darren.

But they refused to move to a smaller home, and had their benefit cut by 25 per cent because the Government thinks that two bedrooms are "spare".

Mr Belcher, 46, said: "I don't believe girls and boys should have to share when they get to that age. Two of them are coming up to teenagers."

"The council can't do anything. It's the Government's fault, but I've had it with the lot

of them anyway."

Oxford's housing boss admitted facing a "moral dilemma" in forcing children of new council tenants to share rooms until they are well into their teens.

Scott Seamons said the Government's removal of its spare room subsidy had forced the council's hand.

The council's current policy says only children of mixed gender under the age of seven have to share a room.

Labour councillor Mr Seamons said: "The moral dilemma for us is that we would be unwilling to place people in properties they would be unable to afford as a result of the bedroom tax."

"But at the same time, we don't agree with the Government."

"When they get to 10 years old, kids can be going through puberty. We don't think children of different sexes should have to share a room at that age."

Rose Hill and Donnington Advice Centre boss Carole

Roberts is also worried.

She said: "If you have children under age 10 you will usually only be allocated a two-bedroom house, but what happens when those children get over 10 and deserve their own rooms?"

"I understand the council has to go along with the Government, but it's going to lead to families being cramped."

The council will also close its housing waiting list to people without a link to Oxford, but Mr Seamons said this was just an extension of existing policies.

He said: "In the past we have always prioritised those with a local connection. All we are doing is restricting the register."

"By allowing people who didn't live in Oxford on to the list didn't mean they had much chance of getting housed anyway as the list is so long."

Concerns about the bedroom tax have come from academics.

Fran Bennett, a research fellow with Oxford Institute of Social Policy, said: "The council is in a difficult position."

"The way in which the Government is tackling the deficit is affecting low-income families and those with children, and this is partly to do with welfare reform."

She also raised concerns that benefits claimants would increasingly rely on discretionary housing payments to fill the gap between benefits and high rents in the private sector.

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Emergency services say that pranksters are putting people's lives at risk

# The high cost of hoaxes

**THOUSANDS of hoax 999 calls are causing huge problems for the emergency services in Oxfordshire and "putting lives at risk", senior figures warn.**

New figures show prank callers as young as seven years old have been making false calls.

The costs of taking hoax calls mean the emergency services lose tens of thousands of pounds each year as they cannot risk failing to answer in case people may be in real trouble.

By Mark Taylor

Police, fire and ambulance chiefs say that those responsible often do not realise their actions divert valuable resources from real emergencies.

Calls have varied from a man claiming to be stuck on a mountain in Wallingford and a nine-year-old from Oxford making up an incident, to repeat calls from someone with mental health issues.

Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue say the cost for sending a fire

engine out on a call is £333.

For Oxford alone since 2008 hoax calls have cost the fire service more than £11,000.

For the entire county over the last five years 235 hoax calls have cost the service more than £78,000.

The average cost of each incident the ambulance service attends is £247.

In the last two years there have been 62 hoax calls to the ambulance service from Oxford, costing about £15,000.

The number of hoax calls to Thames Valley Police has risen every year since 2009 and is on

target to beat last year's total.

According to a Freedom of Information request last year it averaged almost one a day across Oxfordshire.

Jim Templar, deputy head of control room and enquiries department at Thames Valley Police, said call handlers were becoming more stringent but still needed to react in case of a real emergency.

He said: "We take hoax and nuisance calls extremely seriously.

"They disrupt the service that we are trying to provide and can often have a severe impact

on the community we are trying to serve.

"We also have huge problems with nuisance calls and come down very heavily on the people we track down.

"We can work with phone companies to shut off lines and look to impose jail terms for persistent offenders. Hoaxes also block up lines, so that genuine callers cannot get through.

"Earlier this year we had a woman call us to say she was on her way to Birmingham, had left her cooker on, and could we go and turn it off?

"She was quite happy for us to break into her home. How do you classify a call like that?

"It wasn't a hoax, but it was a nuisance, and calls like that are becoming more common."

Police can cut off lines, fine, or even jail those responsible.

Since 2011, the South Central Ambulance Service has logged 742 hoax calls.

From July 2012 to July 2013, it sent ambulance crews to 62 hoax calls in Oxford, 47 in Didcot, eight in Bicester, two in Kidlington, two in Banbury, five in Abingdon, one in Witney and three in Chipping Norton.

Aubrey Bell, area manager for

Oxfordshire Ambulance Service, said: "Ambulances and their crews are a lifeline to those in need, so to take those away from people in need is a selfish act that can have a huge impact.

"The consequences of these calls can be deadly when you are dealing with an ambulance service that covers a wide area.

"People think it is fun or a laugh, but the cost of sending an ambulance out on a hoax call when it could be needed elsewhere is unimaginable."

Rob Macdougall, group manager at Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service, said: "The issue for us is when we get a call we have to respond.

"We are trying to be more vigilant now and push people for details to cut down the hoaxes but we can't take any chances.

"Ten years ago it was mainly kids in telephone boxes but we are seeing a drop in that. We can track hoax calls from mobiles.

"We'll get people smashing smoke alarms accidentally, or on purpose when there is not fire, and it diverts resources from where they are needed."



**Richard Curtis and Kirsty Stuart, of South Central Ambulance Service, at their Kidlington base**

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Cloudy2Clear service the Oxford, Banbury & Abingdon areas and Trevor is finding that his approach is a major factor

in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show

how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

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## Nurses to aid police patrols

**TRIAGE nurses are to join Oxfordshire police officers on call-outs as part of a new pilot scheme.**

It is hoped that the nurses will be able to help in cases where individuals have mental health problems.

Seven forces around the country, including Thames Valley Police, have been chosen to test out the Department for Health street triage plan.

Oxfordshire is the only area in Thames Valley where the scheme is being tested out, and, if successful, it will be implemented elsewhere.

It is being funded by the Department for Health.

Nurses will join foot patrols, assist on emergency calls and sit in control rooms.

Their aims will be to improve the way people with mental health problems are treated during emergencies.

Thames Valley Police assistant chief constable Richard Bennett said: "It is vital that we continue to work closely with our partners in both health and social services to ensure people with mental health and learning disability needs get the help and support they require as quickly as possible."





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■ Historians launch project to help local people find their family roots

# The DNA database

A GROUP of amateur historians are trying to collect the DNA of people in Oxfordshire to help build family trees.

The Oxfordshire DNA project is being run by the Oxfordshire Family History Society.

By Pete Hughes

So far, 24 people have sent off a sample of their DNA to a US laboratory to have it scanned.

The hope is that hundreds more

will follow, and names of families such as Merry, Buckingham, Saunders, Townsend and Wheeler are among those researchers are looking into.

The Texan company, Family Tree DNA, compares samples with a

database of thousands to match people up from around the world.

Sue Honoré, of the OFHS, said she wanted hundreds of people to sign up to the project.

Mrs Honoré, 57, said: "More and more people are turning to DNA to research their family history, because the paper trail tends to run out after six or seven generations.

"Often in history people come from what we call non-paternal events, so we can't find connections with their ancestors on paper.

"That is where DNA can become useful. It can take you further back."

So far, no one from the Oxfordshire DNA project has managed to find a concrete connection through DNA testing.

But, said Mrs Honoré, as more people sign up, everyone's chances of finding a match will improve.

So far, she has found two possible matches, one in America and one in the UK, with whom she is hoping to find a genealogical link.

Co-administrator on the project, Richard Merry, is an Australian whose

grandfather emigrated from Oxford to Tasmania in 1904.

Mr Merry's most distant ancestor, who he has fully documented, is a Richard Merry born in 1640 in Eynsham, although there are other clusters of Merrys in the county.

He said one reason for trying DNA was to see if he could find links with one or more Merry groups in Oxfordshire.

So far DNA has not given him all the answers, but he hopes he will find connections in the next few years.

He has gained considerable expertise on DNA, hence his idea to form the project.

As well as the Merry line, Mr Merry is also researching other family names like

Buckingham, Saunders, Lanchbury and Broadest/ Broadist/ Broadhurst – all from the West Oxfordshire area.

The project is looking for people whose ancestors lived in Oxfordshire since the late 19th century.

Old Oxfordshire names include Eddington or Edginton, Morris, Busby, Collett, Tims, Townsend and Wheeler.

Visit [familytreedna.com/public/oxfordshire](http://familytreedna.com/public/oxfordshire)



Sue Honoré, of the Oxfordshire Family History Society, who is spearheading a project to gather a database of Oxfordshire DNA

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# Farmers tap into the drugs market

■ ... and the morphine poppies are all legal

**AT least six farming businesses in Oxfordshire are currently growing poppies for a drugs company.**

The poppy growing in the county is helping to meet demand for morphine in the production of medicines and pain-killing drugs.

Hundreds of acres of land in the county have just been harvested for morphine production, bringing in income for hard-pressed farmers.

The lilac-coloured poppies are different to the plant used to produce heroin in countries such as Afghanistan.

Britain has been involved there in efforts to eradicate opium poppy crops, which are used in funding terrorism.

It is understood that there are at least six farming businesses in poppy growing for the drugs company Macfarlan

**By Reg Little**

Smith, under licence to the Home Office.

When you drive past the poppy fields, the crops can clearly be seen although the Government will confirm nothing of their whereabouts.

The Home Office rejected a Freedom of Information request to find out the locations of ten sites being used to cultivate 281 hectares of opium poppies for medicinal use.

Farmer Chris Lay has given over 100 acres to poppies. He said: "The poppies are harvested at the same time as wheat. The company harvested the poppies and looked after transport."

Mr Lay said the lilac colour of the poppies adds to the attractiveness of the countryside, while the poppies were a good break

(alternative) crop for arable farmers.

He has been growing poppies for five years and said a number of farmers in Oxfordshire were following his example.

Jonathan Gibbs, head of poppy growing operations at Macfarlan Smith, said: "We are the only company granted permission to grow poppies in the UK and are the world's largest producer of morphine."

"We provide our growers with seed to sow, we give all agronomic advice, harvest the crop and take it away."

"The whole crop poppy is taken to our processing facility where the straw and capsule is separated from the seed."

"There is no morphine in poppy seeds, which are cleaned to 99.95 per cent purity and sold for the culinary markets. The morphine is extracted from the straw."



**ABOVE:**  
The lilac-coloured poppy

**LEFT:**  
Farmer Chris Lay with his brother Nick, left

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■ One in 10 motorists has had licence endorsed but...

# Banbury drivers safest in county

**MORE than 36,000 drivers in Oxfordshire have penalty points on their licence, and 903 have more than nine, new data shows.**

Watlington has the highest proportion of motorists living in its area who have points – almost 15 per cent – although in total Abingdon and district has more drivers with points than anywhere else in the county – 2,961 out of 30,754.

But Banbury's drivers are the safest in the county, with only 7.02 per cent of its drivers having any endorsements on their licence.

On average just over eight per cent of drivers in Oxford have points.

But overall, 9.53 per cent of the county's drivers have points – above the national average of 8.9 per cent, but far below some of the worst driving areas in the UK.

Glasgow tops the list, with 14.5 per cent of drivers with points on their licences.

At the other end, Lerwick, in Shetland, has the fewest, with just four per cent.

The statistics, which come from Government data, have been gathered by national cycling charity CTC.

By Pete Hughes

Chris Peck of the CTC said: "Oxford itself has relatively low levels of penalty points.

"The national average is 8.9 per cent.

"The lower levels in Oxford may reflect the fact that although lots of people may live there with a driver's licence, car use is relatively low and people who drive less have a lower risk of being caught speeding or breaking the law."

In total 36,203 drivers in Oxfordshire – 9.53 per cent – have had their licences endorsed.

Road safety campaigner Ted Dewan, who campaigned for 20mph limits across Oxford, said he was surprised that the city's figures were not higher, but said countryside roads were much faster.

"I wouldn't say Oxford has a speeding problem," he said.

"I am always amazed at how fast you can drive on A roads in the countryside."

CTC officials believe that the discrepancy between areas is mainly due to differing levels of traffic policing in different areas.



Ted Dewan

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**YOUNG AND BUBBLY** Youthful, widowed Swindon female, 43, 5'3", blonde hair, enjoys nights out and the cinema, would like to meet an affectionate, open, honest man, for lasting love and a happy future. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 149682 or send a text to 80360

**FOR STARTERS...** Loving, caring Oxford male, 45, genuine, active, happy, enjoys theatre, cinema, walks, nights in, seeks similar family man, a funny and kind, for friendship first. Let's see what happens. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 114046

**QUALITY TIMES** Sunny, loving, divorced, loyal Swindon girl, 46, 5'3", average build, likes restaurants, walks, travelling, looking to find a tactful, endearing male, for love and an honest future together. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 138116

**IT COULD BE US** Spiritual, genuine Didcot woman, 47, attractive, fun, have grown up children, likes clubs, cafes, music, films, walking and reading, seeking a caring and optimistic man, for friendship first. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 138288 or send a text to 80360

**I NEED A HERO** Charming, positive Trowbridge female, 47, 5'4", brunette, fun-loving, likes balance and harmony in her life, searching for that special guy. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 145473 or send a text to 80360

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**A DEEP CONNECTION** Big, bubbly Swindon lady, 55, black, GSOH, caring, enjoys music, reading, going out & cinema, looking to meet a like-minded fellow guy, 40-50, kind, loyal and fun, for a true relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 115425

**I'LL TREAT YOU RIGHT** Sincere Swindon woman, 55, GSOH, fun personality, loves nights out, socialising and music, seeks a friendly bloke, to share lots of good times and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 104377 or send a text to 80360

**SHALL WE DANCE?** Blonde, blue-eyed Swindon girl, 56, friendly nature, well-travelled and loyal, lover of life, searching for an active, educated man, who appreciates, food, wine and life in general. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 110895

**THAT SPECIAL PERSON** Honest, bubbly female, 56, kind, loving, seeks 6ft+ male, for romance, companionship & lots more. Bicester. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 110670

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**START LIVING AGAIN** Friendly, fun Oxfordshire divorced man, 52, 5'7", grown up children, looking for love again and someone to share life with. Is the right man out there for me? Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 79804

**SOMEONE EXACTLY LIKE YOU** Caring, lovely, bubbly Bicester lady, 54, looking for a tall, kind, caring and romantic man for a lasting loving relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 118921 or send a text to 80360

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**I'LL TREAT YOU RIGHT** Sincere Swindon woman, 55, GSOH, fun personality, loves nights out, socialising and music, seeks a friendly bloke, to share lots of good times and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 104377 or send a text to 80360

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**LOVE IS FOR SHARING** Easygoing, sincere Trowbridge lady, 61, med build, 5'6", GSOH, N/S, enjoys good social life, darts, music, walking & reading, searching for that special guy, N/S and caring for dates & more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 116161 or send a text to 80360

**GENUINE AND CARING** Oxfordshire widow, 62, 5'6", slender build, sociable, caring and well-travelled, searching for a genuine, professional guy, non-smoker, for friendship, maybe lasting love. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 466487

**LET'S ENJOY LIFE** Vibrant, sincere Witney female, 63, loves meeting people, good conversations, going out & about, walks, theatre, looking for a similar chap, for companionship and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 142189

**COMPLETE THE PICTURE** Attractive, honest Swindon lady, 65, 5'5", loves cinema, theatre, national trust, walks, would like to meet a tall, non-smoking gent, under 70 with a GSOH. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 140415 or send a text to 80360

**SO HAPPY TOGETHER** Loving, sincere and attractive lady, 67, cuddly, would like to meet a gent who likes country walks, meals out, social drinks and places of interest for companionship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 140415 or send a text to 80360

**COUNTRY WALKS** Country-loving lady, early 70s, wishing to meet sincere gentleman, for companionship, to share the good things in life; dining out, places of interest, golfing, loves animals. GSOH, Marlborough area. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 149564 or send a text to 80360

**HIT THE JACKPOT** Sincere Swindon lady, 77, enjoying dancing pub lunches, theatre and more, searching for a nice gent, with similar interests, for friendship and perhaps more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 145190 or send a text to 80360

**BLOSSOM WITH TLC** Attractive Abingdon widow, 80, would like to meet a non-smoking, active gent, to enjoy days out and cosy times in with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 139676

**LOVING FRIEDSHIP** Country loving, fit Trowbridge female, 81, enjoys visiting places of interest, cooking, gardening and relaxing days, seeking an honest, N/S man, with similar interests, for a lasting friendship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 153498

**RELIGHT OUR FIRES** Caring, brown-eyed Witney lady, 60, blonde hair, enjoys holidays, cinema, company and much more, searching for a warm-hearted man, to share good times and cuddles. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 146902

**THE LONG TERM** Separated, easygoing Oxon female, 61, likes cooking, evenings in/out and much more, seeks friendly male, to enjoy life with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 100451

**SEEKING THE RIGHT MAN** Separated, attractive Witney female, 61, 5'2", curvy, likes cooking, evenings in/out and much more, seeks friendly male, to enjoy life with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 128289

**TELL ME ABOUT YOU** Caring, considerate male, 27, enjoys sport, music, quiet nights in, drinks out, country walks, would like to meet a similar lady for friendship, leading to a lasting romance. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 153050 or send a text to 80360

**SHARE SOME TIME** Adaptable, upbeat and optimistic Oxford man, 33, would like to find a warm, laid-back girl, for good times and great company. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 134837

**FRIENDLY COMPANION** Friendly Kidlington male, 35, 5'8", blue eyes, smoker, loves pubs meals and cosy times in, seeking a female, for love and romance. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 141321

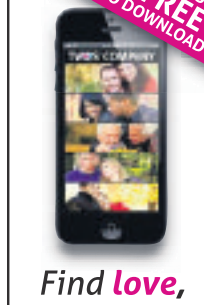
**CARING & CONSIDERATE** Kind-hearted, active Oxford man, 37, enjoys staying fit, playing sports and fine dining with friends and family, would like to meet a similar female, for companionship and love. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 147290 or send a text to 80360

**TIME TO SHARE** Lively Oxford male, 39, 5'10", med build, enjoys motorbikes, clubs, cinema, meals and more, searching for a loving woman, to share friendship and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 117999 or send a text to 80360

**NOW OR NEVER** Practical, affable and dependable Oxford male, 39, likes eating out at restaurants, swimming and cycling, seeking a truthful, intelligent, informed lady, for fun and maybe a little romance. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 131282 or send a text to 80360

**EASY TO LOVE** Easy-going gent, 41, GSOH, enjoys travelling, music, looking for my life long partner. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 152843 or send a text to 80360

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**GOOD COMPANIONSHIP** Confident, friendly Wantage male, 44, 6'4", green eyes, likes cooking, sports, cinema, looking to meet a black lady, 26-42, to enjoy good company and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 141512 or send a text to 80360

**NIGHTS FULL OF FUN** Outgoing, black Oxford male, 45, 5'8", medium build, no ties, enjoys going to clubs, dining out and bowling, simply seeking a sociable woman, who enjoys nights out, for fun times and maybe more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 148230 or send a text to 80360

**ENERGIZER TIME** Honest, friendly and charming Oxford male, 45, 6'3", stocky build, great sense of humour, enjoys sport, travel, cosy times and social drinks, seeking a fun-loving female, for happier times. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 101716 or send a text to 80360

**COME CLOSER** Active, kind-hearted and upbeat Oxford bloke, 46, 6'3", looking to find an insightful, liberal woman, for fun and maybe a little romance. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 130080

**MY MATCH** Blue-eyed male, early 40s, home-set, self-employed, searching for a fun-loving black woman, for great times. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 111475

**FUN AND ADVENTURE** Professional, caring male, 46, 5'9", N/S, own home, self-employed, enjoys days out to the seaside, seeking young-at-heart, honest lady, to spend quality time with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 146399 or send a text to 80360

**THE RIGHT STUFF** Tender, affable and decent Witney man, 46, would like to find a warm, instinctive lady, for friendship and maybe more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 132870

**THE LIFE OF THE PARTY** Shy yet sincere Banbury male, 47, would like to meet an honest, bubbly, faithful woman, for loving times and to share a happy future together. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 145482 or send a text to 80360

**LOTS TO GIVE** Easygoing, reliable, loyal Bicester male, 48, 5'7", divorcee, varied interests and enjoys the outdoor life, looking for someone, to share life with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 143400 or send a text to 80360

**LOVE TO HAVE A LAUGH** Hardworking Oxford male, 51, 5'7", brown hair, own flat, likes socialising, cooking, nights in, seeks nice young lady for friendship leading to more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 121027 or send a text to 80360

**PURE KINDNESS** Blue-eyed Bicester male, 52, 5'10", own home, self-employed, searching for a loving African woman, for friendship and maybe more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 144560 or send a text to 80360

**TIME FOR A CHANGE** Friendly, expressive and vibrant Kidlington male, 52, with plenty of interests in life, would like to meet a life-loving, interesting lady, to share love, laughter and the future together. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 114479

**ACCEPT EACH OTHER** Easygoing Wantage male, 52, own car, works full-time, likes most sports, would like to meet an outgoing female, for good times leading to more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 135164 or send a text to 80360

**EYE TO EYE** Nice gent, 53, enjoys history, coastal walks, architecture, walking, cosy nights in, cooking, DIY, would like to meet a lady for companionship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 152776 or send a text to 80360

**ALL TO LOVE** Kind and caring Oxfordshire male, 53, brown hair, green eyes, GSOH, searching for a nice, genuine girl, for friendship first, then maybe more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 461278

**TAKE CHARGE** Bright, humorous and optimistic Banbury man, 55, would like a date with a chatty, active woman, for good times and great company. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 132836

**REAL AND READY** Fit, friendly Oxford man, 57, 6ft, enjoys swimming, walking in the woods and relaxing days, would like to meet a smart lady, to socialise with and see where it goes from there. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 153349 or send a text to 80360

**SHARING GOOD TIMES** Upbeat Burford widower, 59, own cars, works full-time, likes days in and out, countryside walks, driving, looking for a similar woman for companionship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 117916 or send a text to 80360

**SO GOOD TOGETHER** Genuine, easygoing, happy Abingdon male, 62, own home/car, enjoys dancing, days out and walking the dog, searching for a genuine lady, with an attractive and happy nature. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 153137 or send a text to 80360

**LONG LASTING HAPPINESS** Solvent, retired business gent, North Oxfordshire, 67, own home and car etc, with a love of cinema, travel and new adventure, seeks a nice, loyal, feminine lady, for companionship then who knows? Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 132140

**HOPE THIS WORKS** Cuddly Swindon lady, 48, easygoing and fun to be with, looking for friendship leading to more with a nice, friendly, bubbly woman. Where are you? Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 851817

**FRIENDSHIPS WITH FEMALES** Straight, kind Bicester woman, 68, retired and missing the social aspect of work so looking to find some female friends or an established social group for days out and friendship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 147186 or send a text to 80360

**IT'S YOUR MOVE** Outgoing, energetic and warm-hearted Oxford male, 41, likes nights out, pubs, clubs, live music and loads more, simply searching for an outgoing, older man, for fun times, laughter and lots more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 103263 or send a text to 80360

**PUTTING THE SPARK BACK** Easygoing, stocky built Oxford guy, 50, blue eyes, likes pubs, cinema, the arts, looking for a similar man 35-60, for companionship and hopefully we'll see where it leads to. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 115976 or send a text to 80360

**MAKE A CONNECTION** Interesting, friendly Oxford male, 64, varied interests, loves walks, reading, travel and more, seeks sensitive male, similar age, for a loving relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 857624

**THAT'S ALL FOR NOW...** Easygoing, friendly Didcot male, 66, enjoys walks, theatre, cosy times in, socialising, seeks a friendly, active chap, for company and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 131800 or send a text to 80360

**OPEN YOUR HEART** Cheerful, slim Banbury male, 70, 5'9", GSOH, likes sport, walks, animals and cosy times, searching for a decent lady, to settle down with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 104901 or send a text to 80360

**DECISION IS YOURS** Honest, easygoing Yorkshire man living in Banbury, 60, 5'6", slim build, self-employed, likes gardening, cooking, cinema, travel, countryside, seeks genuine lady, to share life with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 140930 or send a text to 80360

**A FRIEND INDEED** Semi-retired Oxford male, 67, 6', slim build, likes playing bowls, home life, seeking an easygoing female, for good times and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 137812

**LOVING LIFE** Loyal, solvent North Oxfordshire gent, 67, 5'9", loves soul and searching music, coffee and theatre, matron for an attractive, interesting lady, 50-65, to share and explore interesting times. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 104998

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**SOUL TO SOUL** Fun, talkative and friendly Oxford guy, 78, likes a drink sometimes, just hoping to meet a bubbly, confident lady, to build a loving, lasting relationship with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 100937

**LET'S SEE IF WE MATCH** Young at heart Oxford male, 66, enjoys slow walks, reading and cosy nights in with great conversation, would like to meet an interesting, vibrant woman, for fun, friendship and possibly love. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 153137 or send a text to 80360

**LONG LASTING HAPPINESS** Solvent, retired business gent, North Oxfordshire, 67, own home and car etc, with a love of cinema, travel and new adventure, seeks a nice, loyal, feminine lady, for companionship then who knows? Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 132140

**HOPE THIS WORKS** Cuddly Swindon lady, 48, easygoing and fun to be with, looking for friendship leading to more with a nice, friendly, bubbly woman. Where are you? Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 851817

**FRIENDSHIPS WITH FEMALES** Straight, kind Bicester woman, 68, retired and missing the social aspect of work so looking to find some female friends or an established social group for days out and friendship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 147186 or send a text to 80360

**IT'S YOUR MOVE** Outgoing, energetic and warm-hearted Oxford male, 41, likes nights out, pubs, clubs, live music and loads more, simply searching for an outgoing, older man, for fun times, laughter and lots more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 103263 or send a text to 80360

**PUTTING THE SPARK BACK** Easygoing, stocky built Oxford guy, 50, blue eyes, likes pubs, cinema, the arts, looking for a similar man 35-60, for companionship and hopefully we'll see where it leads to. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 115976 or send a text to 80360

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# CakeLeisure

banburycake.co.uk/leisure



Above, Jamie Smith's Mabon; below, Erin 'Tiger' Lilley

## Folk's all set to take over town

By Sam McGregor

**FOLK** music will fill the streets of the town at the 14th Banbury Folk Festival.

Banbury's mayor Nicholas Turner will open the weekend-long event at the Mill at 6.45pm on Friday, October 11, before the first concert at Banbury Town Hall.

Dozens of acts will perform at a host of venues across the town including The Mill Arts Centre, Spiceball Park and the town hall.

The opening night line-up includes internationally-known shanty group Kimber's Men, The Young 'Uns, a group of lads from Teesside, as well as female singers Lynne Heraud and Pat Turner.

Other bands signed up to perform during the weekend include international Celtic band Jamie Smith's Mabon, Meet on the Ledge, Red Shoes, The Jigantics, Fifteen String Trio, The Tindalls, FolkLaw and The Linda Watkins Band.

As well as music there will be other activities including an arts and crafts fair at the town hall, in Bridge Street, on Saturday, and song and music sessions, folk clubs, work-



shops, Blues Café sessions, Morris dancing and singing boat trips.

Two local girls will also be performing at the Emerging Young Performers Concert on Saturday at the Mill.

They are Holly Perkins and Erin 'Tiger' Lilley, 13, from Bloxham.

Organiser Derek Droscher said: "We have a range of events to cater for all tastes, with a wide variety of artists taking part in the concerts – some festival favourites, but also some you may not have seen and

heard before. We have a policy of including local artists and performers who are new to the folk scene, including young up-and-coming acts.

"People come to the festival from all over the country. They really enjoy visiting Banbury and come not just to see the performers but also because they like the friendly feel of the festival."

Tickets, from £18, are available at The Mill Arts Centre, or view [banburyfolkfestival.co.uk](http://banburyfolkfestival.co.uk)

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# CakeSport

banburycake.co.uk/sport

Banbury stumble at first hurdle of the RFU Cup as Dunstablians prove too strong in the final quarter

## Bulls get a good goring

**FIELDING** a much-changed side from last week's league victory a youthful Banbury side bowed out of the RFU Cup Competition at the first fence.

The sides were evenly matched for much of the game but the greater strength and experience of the Dunstablians told in the final quarter, with two late tries to make the game safe.

Playing with the wind Dunstablians started brightly and, showing superior strength up front, were first on the scoreboard with a try from a catch and drive from a line out close to the Banbury line, which was duly converted.

The Bulls responded well, with stand-in skipper Nick Pratt leading the way with some powerful runs, and, following a quickly-taken penalty in the Dunstablians' 22, prop forward Garry Byott forced his way over under the posts, leaving Alex Fogavini an easy

**Banbury Bulls RUFC** 16  
**Dunstablians** 31

conversion to level the scores. With the game approaching half-time the Bulls took the lead with a Fogavini penalty, but with the final move of the half Dunstablians replied with a converted try after the Banbury defence gifted them possession with a poor clearance from a kick ahead.

Trailing by just four points at the break and with the wind now in their favour the Bulls were well in the game, and the gap was narrowed to a single point with a Fogavini penalty, which followed a fine break from full-back Carl Daniels, who was only denied a try by a last-gasp tackle from the Dunstablians' cover defence. Dunstablians responded with some powerful running from their big forwards, punching holes in the Banbury defence and establishing a foothold in the Banbury 22.

Good handling from the backs created a try in the corner to extend their lead.

With the game going into the final quarter Banbury again narrowed the gap with a third Fogavini penalty, but hopes of victory were eventually extinguished when a cruel bounce from a Dunstablians cross kick eluded the Banbury defence, allowing the Dunstablians' wing to gather and send a supporting player in for a simple try.

Dunstablians' superiority was confirmed as they took advantage of a tiring Banbury defence to score a further converted try and leave themselves comfortable and worthy winners.

While the Bulls will have been disappointed to lose, their understrength team put up a gutsy performance against a well-drilled side who held a clear advantage in weight and experience in their forwards, who were able to give the backs ball going forward, while the Banbury backline often received the ball on the back foot.



Nick Pratt led the way for Banbury with some powerful running

**STARS with Claire Petulengro**

Service provided by IMS Leeds LS1 8LB. Calls cost 60p per minute at all times

**ARIES** Mar 21-Apr 19 **LIBRA** Sep 23-Oct 22

Your personal life finally starts to feel as if it is getting back on track. Although you thought you knew what you wanted last year, you've discovered there is more to who you are than at first meets the eye. You asked for more and this week you get proof that you're going to get it for my friend. Give me a call now to hear why it's imperative you save some money for travel and holidays.

**0906 585 4360** **0906 585 4366**

**TAURUS** Apr 20-May 20 **SCORPIO** Oct 23-Nov 21

It's going to be very hard for you to resist the temptation to spend money, but try to look at the bigger picture Taurus. Work out what you need to save to turn your dreams into a reality and stick to your plan. Gemini can help you mend a broken relationship. Open doors. Don't wait for them to open by themselves midweek. Your life can change if you do. Ring me so I can give you a full reading.

**0906 585 4361** **0906 585 4367**

**GEMINI** May 21-Jun 20 **SAGITTARIUS** Nov 22-Dec 21

You think you have to cope on your own but you're wrong. Just remember that no problem is too small to be shared. Improved relations in the family make it easy for you to get what were opposing sides together. Reply to all emails and letters as you read them today my friend. Ring me now to hear why this is such an important week for business and finances in your life.

**0906 585 4362** **0906 585 4368**

**CANCER** Jun 21-Jul 22 **CAPRICORN** Dec 22-Jan 19

Things which are usually easy for you to sort out, now seem harder than ever to solve and this has as much to do with the fact that you're actually doing everything in your power not to deal with them. Deal with what is in front of you and leave others to worry about rumours which may or may not be unfounded. Give me a call now to hear how Mercury promises ways to increase your finances.

**0906 585 4363** **0906 585 4369**

**LEO** Jul 23-Aug 22 **AQUARIUS** Jan 20-Feb 18

Don't get involved in gossip today or you could be the one who ends up accused of starting it. Slowing your pace in work matters can ensure you get the right deal rather than just making do with what others believe you'll accept. A fall out with a family member must be sorted out before Thursday if you are to find a way back. Ring now for a message from your stars on love.

**0906 585 4364** **0906 585 4370**

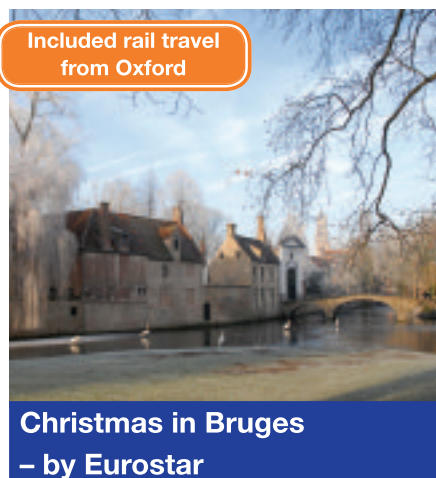
**VIRGO** Aug 23-Sep 22 **PISCES** Feb 19-Mar 20

You have so much fun you can indulge in this week, but you have to remember who you are and what you want, rather than what other people think is right for you. Visitors to your home come with proof that you're cared for and will always have support, no matter what is going on in your life. Give me a call now to hear how Mars favours signing important contracts.

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**ABTA**  
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# Acutely-observed thriller that takes no prisoners

**PRISONERS** (15, 153 mins)

Thriller/Romance/Action. Hugh Jackman, Jake Gyllenhaal, Terence Howard, Viola Davis, Maria Bello, Paul Dano, David Dastmalchian, Melissa Leo, Dylan Minnette, Erin Gerasimovich, Zoe Soul. Director: Denis Villeneuve.

**A**LTHOUGH it ultimately lacks the courage of its twisted convictions, *Prisoners* is a provocative thriller about a father who takes justice into his own hands when his little girl is abducted at Thanksgiving.

The subsequent quest for answers and reconciliation, regardless of the horrific consequences, will strike a deep chord with parents.

Denis Villeneuve's beautifully crafted picture plays out its nightmarish scenario without any sense of urgency.

Desperate times call for desperate measures and, when authorities fail to solve the case, Aaron Guzikowski's script pulls no punches as it depicts the father's transformation from doting family man to snarling judge, jury and executioner.

Explosions of violence are graphic, justifying the film's 15 certificate.

When characters suffer, they do so in sickening close-up.

The film begins with Keller Dover (Hugh Jackman) hunting with his teenage son, Ralph (Dylan Minnette).

They return home with a slain deer and the entire Dover clan, including wife Grace (Maria Bello)

and daughter Anna (Erin Gerasimovich), heads over to the home of their neighbours, Franklin (Terence Howard) and Nancy Birch (Viola Davis), for Thanksgiving lunch.

Soon after, Anna and the Birch's girl, Eliza (Zoe Soul), disappear to look for a missing whistle and never return.

The two sets of parents are distraught and Ralph remembers a suspicious RV parked down the road.

Detective Loki (Jake Gyllenhaal) and local police arrest the driver, Alex Jones (Paul Dano), who has the mental age of a 10-year-old.

Without any evidence to link Alex to the crime, police are forced to let their prime suspect go back into the care of his mother, Holly (Melissa Leo).

So Keller kidnaps Alex at gunpoint and holds the young man hostage.

"We hurt him until he talks or [the girls] are going to die," Keller tells Franklin.

*Prisoners* is technically polished and director Villeneuve composes some stunning images with cinematographer Roger Deakins, bleached of colour and hope.

Guzikowski's script pushes Keller to the edge of the abyss then curiously leaves him standing there for the final hour, throwing in numerous plot twists and another suspect (David Dastmalchian) to delay the father's fall from grace.

Jackman is mesmerising as a protector willing to ignore his moral compass to reunite



A scene from *Prisoners*, with Hugh Jackman, as Keller Dover

Picture: PA Photo/Entertainment One

his fractured family.

Gyllenhaal invests his rebellious cop with an array of twitches and ticks that hint at rage bubbling beneath the surface, while Dano is both pathetic and creepy as a man-child, whose innocence remains shrouded in doubt until the tricky closing frames.

The excessive running time might put off some audiences, but patience is rewarded with fine performances and a slick final act that ties up most of the loose threads.

## CakeWhat's on

### Music

**FRIDAY: The Mill Arts Centre, Spiceball Park, Banbury:** The Katherine Jenkins Experience – classically trained singer, Gemma Turner, performs her tribute to the Welsh mezzo-soprano. £12, concession £10. 7.30pm. 01295 279002.

**Tuesday, Bridge Street, Banbury:** Charity Gala Show. Local drag act Shona Shuffles with guests including 80s' star Hazell Dean and 90s pop star Nicki French, with local singers Jodie Brooker, Paul Charles, Ellie, Rosie Samaras and Sharon Green Dance Academy. 7-10.45pm. Raising money for Katherine House Hospice, Terrence Higgins Trust and Town Mayors Charities. There will be a bar (profits also to the charities) and a raffle. £10 to include a drink on arrival, table nibbles and the show. Doors 7pm, show 7.45-10.45pm. Please call for tickets. 07786 987034.

**SATURDAY: The Mill Arts Centre, Spiceball Park, Banbury:** Martin

Barre. Celebrated rock guitarist (45 years with prog-rock pioneers Jethro Tull). New Day tour. Standing event. £17.50. 8.30pm. 01295 279002.

**The Theatre, Spring Street, Chipping Norton:** Cooper Black – theatre fundraiser featuring an eclectic mix of folk, country blues and pop. £15. 7.45pm. 01608 642350 Mon-Fri 10-6pm, Sat 10am-2pm.

### Theatre

**The Mill Arts Centre, Spiceball Park, Banbury:**

**THURSDAY: Mess.** Caroline Horton stars in her own critically-acclaimed musical play, a witty and engaging take on her own battle with anorexia. £12, concession £10. 7.30pm.

**FRIDAY: The Duchess of Malfi.** Webster's 17th-century revenge tragedy tells the story of a woman paying the price for daring to disregard her social status. Presented by Eyestrings Theatre. £12, concession £10. 7.30pm. Box office: 01295 279002.

**The Theatre, Spring Street, Chipping Norton:**

**FRIDAY:** Jeremy Hardy. Stand-up. £14, £5 for the unwaged. 7.45pm. £14, £5 unwaged.

**WEDNESDAY:** Alistair McGowan – *Not Just A Pretty Voice*. The impressionist goes back to his stand-up roots for a new show. £15. 7.45pm.

**OCT 9-11: Cymbeline.** A Wager of Love. Indian twist to Shakespeare's play, bringing an exotic flavour to the original text, with an international cast and an Academy Award winning designer. £14, concession £12, schools £8.50. 7.45pm. Box office: 01608 642350, Mon-Fri 10am-6pm, Sat 10-2pm.

### Cinema

**Odeon, Horsefair, Banbury:** Call the cinema for information. Box office: 0871 224 4007.

**The Theatre, 2 Spring Street, Chipping Norton:** What Maisie Knew, 15, Sun 7.30pm. Alan Partridge - Alpha Papa, 15, Mon 7.30pm. Box office: 01608 642350 (Mon-Fri 10-6pm, Sat 10-2pm).

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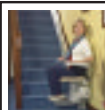
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# Cake Motoring

banburycake.co.uk/cars

## New supermini really sparkles

By David Duffy

LOOKING up at the roof of Vauxhall's glamorous new supermini I saw stars — literally. Gleaming down from the headlining were 64 LED lights giving the impression of a starry night sky.

The slightly bizarre sight is one of scores of fun touches designed to put a smile on your face. And fun is what this car is all about.

The ADAM — the capitals are Vauxhall's and like BMW's MINI have no place in print — is the first Vauxhall to enter the growing fashion-led A-sector.

Like the Mini and the Fiat 500, the Adam sparkles with personality. And not only does it look good, inside and out, it is also a cracking little car to drive. Priced from £11,255 to £14,000, the three-door, two-seater comes in three trim levels — colourful Jam, elegant Glam and sporty Slam — with a choice of 12 body colours include 'Purple Fiction' and 'James Blonde' and three contrasting roof colours — 'I'll be Black', 'White my Fire' and 'Men in Brown'.

Sitting behind the wheel you feel you are driving an altogether larger car. That is partly due to the glitzy watch-style instruments and chrome-bezeled switches and the high level of standard equipment fitted which seems almost out of

place on such a compact car, from steering wheel-mounted audio controls and air conditioning, to a trip computer and blind-spot warning. That is just the tip of the iceberg of equipment crammed into this car. But how does it drive? The answer is brilliantly. Though the car is clearly built for city use, with a flick of a switch increasing power assistance to the electrical power steering system at lower speeds, the 1.2-litre, 70 horsepower Adam delights in zipping around country roads. The car's wide tread, solid stance, and steering that has been specially tuned for the UK roads, make for a superbly stable and agile drive.

Standard on all models is an electronic stability program, which includes functions such as hill start assist and cruise control with a speed limiter, allowing the driver to set a maximum speed.

### Auto facts

**Model:** Vauxhall Adam Jam  
**Price:** £11,255  
**Ins group:** 3E (1-50)  
**Fuel consump:** (Combined): 55.3mpg  
**Top speed:** 103mph  
**Length:** 369.8cm/145.6in  
**Width:** 172cm/67.7in  
**Luggage capacity:** 6 cu ft  
**Fuel tank capacity:** 8.3 gallons/38 litres  
**CO2 emissions:** 124g/km  
**Warranty:** 100,000 mls



**DAZZLING PERFORMER:** The Adam is great to drive

A first for the little car is a park assist system that uses ultrasonic sensors to detect if a parking space is large enough to accommodate the car and then automatically steers it into the parking space, with the driver only needing to control the brake, clutch and gears.

Top of the technology pile is a new 'infotainment' system that integrates a smartphone, making Internet-based apps, from navigation to music, available on a seven-inch touchscreen.

Throw in 20 wheel designs, 15 seat treatments and 18 dashboard panels, and Vauxhall's claim of a million different combinations is enough to make anyone see stars.

### Used car news

## Golf scores double victory in annual awards

**WHAT Car?** has named the Volkswagen Golf as Used Car of the Year 2013 and Used Family Car of the Year in its annual awards.

The judges praised the Golf's cabin quality and refinement, comfort, driveability, running costs and its impressive safety credentials.

**What Car?** editor-in-chief Chas Hallett said: "What clearly sets the Golf apart from other small family cars is its cabin."

Vauxhall was named the Best Manufacturer for its Network Q approved used scheme. **What Car?**'s road test editor

and head judge Steve Huntingford says: "Network Q makes buying a used car very easy." Vauxhall picked up two further awards: the Small Car Award for the Corsa 1.2 Design AC 5dr, while the Vauxhall Astra 1.6 Exclusiv was Best Nearly New Car, a category that considers any car up to 12 months old.

**What Car?** readers, in association with **What Car?** Approved Used, named Honda as the car manufacturer they'd trust the most when buying a used car. The Ford S-Max 2.0 TDCi Zetec was named Best Used MPV and

Mazda picked up the Best Used Estate Car for the Mazda 6 Estate 2.2D 163 TS2.

For the third year, the Nissan Qashqai was voted Best Used SUV, with judges praising its spacious and classy cabin, comfortable ride and commanding view.

The BMW 320d won the Best Used Executive and Luxury Car award, sponsored by Warranty Direct. The Used Fun Car category went to Renault for the Renault Clio Renaultsport 200 Cup, with judges saying it is simply one of the best hot hatchbacks ever made.

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### Wheels and deals

■ FIAT has started UK sales of its latest offering, the 500L MPW. In either five-seat or optional 5+2-seat configuration, the Fiat 500L MPW offers 638 litres of boot space with generous room for passengers within a compact exterior. The new Fiat 500L MPW will be offered in two trim levels: Pop Star and Lounge. Prices for the FIAT 500L MPW start at £15,795 for the 1.4 Pop Star while the 7-seat versions start at £17,990 for either the TwinAir 105hp Pop Star or 1.3 Multijet 85hp Pop Star.

■ VAUXHALL has lowered the price of its Ampera range-extender electric car by £3,500 to give it a starting price of £28,750. This price includes the government's £5,000 Plug-In Car Grant for vehicles that emit less than 75g/km of carbon dioxide, are battery powered and have a range of more than 60 miles. The entry-level model is the Ampera Positiv, with the Electron, including Bose stereo, from £30,495.

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2004	04	Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 Design. Metallic Gold. 3 Door. Approximately only 40000 recorded miles. 2 owners. Aircon. PAS. Electric windows, Remote central locking. Radio/CD. Sold with a new MOT a full service and a new cambelt kit. HPI Clear.....	£2,995
2003	03	TOYOTA COROLLA 1.6 T3 VVTi, 5 Door, Dark Green, 2 owners, Alloys, PAS, Electric windows, Electric door mirrors, Aircon, Radio/CD, Good service record, Sold with a new MOT a full service and a new cambelt kit, HPI Clear.....	£2,795
2005	05	MITSUBISHI COLT 1.1 EQUIPPE, 5 Doors, Silver, Low mileage, Aircon, Sunroof, Alloys, Radio/CD, Remote central locking, Electric windows, Electric door mirrors, PAS, Great little car, Very 'roomy', Lovely condition, Sold with a new MOT, a full service and a full service, HPI Clear.....	£2,750
2001	51	VOLVO C70 CONVERTIBLE, Silver, Leather interior, Electric hood, Alloys, Electric windows, Electric mirrors, Radio CD, Aircon, etc etc, Excellent condition, Local car, Sold with a new MOT a full service and a new cambelt, HPI clear.....	£2,495
2001	51	VW POLO 1.4 MATCH, Dark Blue, 5 Door, Local car, PAS, Aircon, Central locking, Radio/CD, Electric windows, Very good service record, Nice condition, Sold with a new cambelt a new MOT and a full service, HPI Clear.....	£2,295
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1997	P	TOYOTA CELICA 1.8 ST COUPE, Turquoise Blue, Exceptional Condition, PAS, Alloys, Central Locking, Electric Windows, Sun Roof, Local Car, HPI Clear.....	£1,295
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